

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): An isolated and purified antibody which **specifically** binds to a protein having cortistatin-like activity wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 26, positions 44 to 74 of SEQ ID NO: 26, and positions 77 to 105 of SEQ ID NO: 26.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The antibody of claim 21, wherein the antibody is free from immunoreaction with neuropeptides other than cortistatin.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The antibody of claim 21, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 24 (previously presented): An immunologically active fragment of an antibody of claim 21 selected from the group consisting of a Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂ and F(v) fragment.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method of making an antibody of claim 21, comprising the steps of:

- (i) immunizing a mammal with an inoculum containing an immunologically effective amount of a cortistatin polypeptide to induce in the mammal antibody molecules having immunospecificity to the cortistatin polypeptide;
- (ii) collecting the antibody molecules; and

(iii) isolating the antibody molecules that have immunospecificity to the cortistatin polypeptide.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method of making an antibody of claim 23, comprising the steps of:

- (i) initiating a monoclonal hybridoma culture with a nutrient medium containing a hybridoma that produces and secretes antibody molecules with cortistatin specificity;
- (ii) maintaining the culture under conditions and for a time period sufficient for the hybridoma to secrete the antibody molecules into the medium;
- (iii) collecting the antibody-containing medium; and
- (iv) isolating the antibody molecules that have cortistatin specificity.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A hybridoma cell that produces a monoclonal antibody of claim 23.

Claims 28 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

Claims 29-44 (canceled).